



March 9, 2015

Statement by Jane McNichol, Director of Legal Assistance Resource Center of CT (LARCC) and Paul Filson, Director of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Connecticut State Council on behalf of the Better Choices for Connecticut Coalition—concerning S.B. No. 946 AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET - Before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Better Budget Choices Exist For Connecticut

Better budget choices exist for Connecticut. While the Governor's budget does introduce some revenue side corrections, it seeks to balance Connecticut's budget primarily through reliance on cuts that will cost jobs, slow economic growth, and devastate the vital public services we all care about. We can do better by incorporating revenue options that (1) invest in our economy, (2) eliminate unfair tax breaks that are either outdated or indefensible, and (3) ask more of those with the highest ability to pay.

The alternative to identifying new revenue sources are cuts that hurt those we care about: children and families who need essential services, people with disabilities and the elderly who need caring services, schools that need good teachers, and communities that need public safety.

There are better choices. We urge the General Assembly to protect the vital public structures and services upon which our economy and our communities depend. We urge the General Assembly to demand accountability for tax expenditures just like program expenditures. We urge the General Assembly to ask more from those who can and should pay their fair share.

Better Choices for Connecticut is a statewide coalition working to help lawmakers make smarter decisions about the state's imbalanced revenue system. Members include nonprofit providers, labor organizations, public service workers, and community, faith based and advocacy organizations.

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